THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 26 State Civil Service Officers of Rajasthan, who were appointed to the IAS by promotion in 1988 have been given seniority of 1979 *i.e.* a weightage of 9 pears under the Rules. The position would, however, vary from State to State.

1702. [*Transferred to the 9th August*, 1989]

Poisonous effects of Stainless steel utencils of Inferior Quality

1703. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of stainless steel utensils of inferior quality is poisonous for the human body;

(b) whether the Salem Stainless Steel Plant (SSSP) has conducted vigorous laboratory-tests in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against the stainless steel utensils-makers which are using sub-standard material; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) Generally, the use of Stainless Steel does not cause any harm to human body. In inferior quality of steel the constituent metals like Iron, Nickel and Chromium can be in different quantities and can leach out during food preparation and storage. Of these, oral ingestion of Iron and Nickel are not harmful but chromium can be harmful if it exceeds the daily intake level. According to Steel Authority of India Limited, the Salem Steel Plant had conducted Laboratory tests for chemical compositions and mechanical properties on some of the inferior quality of Stainless Steel. The question of certification of utensils by prescribing standard will be considered in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Impact of US help on Indian Initiative on LCA

1704. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of possible US help in the Light Combat Aircraft project, our own initiative on the LCA is going to be jettisoned; and

(b) what is the present position of our own LCA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) No, Sir. The Light Combat Aircraft is being designed and developed indigenously. However, US technologies in the areas of Flight Control Systems, Composites and Avionics Simulation are likely to be available.

(b) The Project Definition Phase of the Light Combat Aircraft programme has been completed. Detailed design/development phase is to be launched shortly.

Opening of College of Nursing at JIPMER

1705. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 715 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1989 and state :

(a) what action has been taken by Government for opening of the proposed College of Nursing at JIPMER, Pondicherry; and

(b) by when the said College is likely to be commissioned ?